

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
 - (a) a single die;
 - (b) a first circuitry disposed on said single die including:
 - a deserializer for converting at least one serial differential bit stream into a character stream;
 - a decoder receiving said character stream to form a decoded data stream; and
 - a means for aggregating said decoded data stream and reconstructing a parallel word according to a desired protocol definition;
 - (c) a second circuitry disposed on said single die including:
 - a means for presenting a second parallel word according to said desired protocol definition to form an altered data stream,
 - an encoder receiving said altered data stream to form an encoded data stream;
 - a serializer for converting said encoded data stream into said at least one serial differential bit stream, wherein said first circuitry and said second circuitry are capable of transferring data across ~~implementing~~ at least two interconnect protocol definitions, said at least two interconnect protocol definitions including a single-thread, multiple-speed protocol method and a multiple-thread, single-speed protocol method.
2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least two interconnect protocol definitions include a 10 Gigabit Fibre Channel protocol definition and a 4 Gigabit, 2 Gigabit, 1 Gigabit Fibre Channel protocol definition.

4-12. (Canceled)

13. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

- (a) a single die;
- (b) means for transforming at least one serial differential bit stream into a parallel word; said transforming means being disposed on said single die; means for converting a second parallel word into at least one serial differential bit stream; said converting means being disposed on said single die; said converting means including an input selector in which said apparatus operates according to a selected protocol definition; wherein said transforming means and said converting means are capable of transferring data across ~~implementing~~ at least two interconnect protocol definitions, said at least two interconnect protocol definitions including a single-thread, multiple-speed protocol method[[,]] and a multiple-thread, single-speed protocol method ~~and a multiple thread, multiple speed protocol method.~~

14. (Canceled)

15. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein at least two interconnect protocol definitions include a 10 Gigabit Fibre Channel protocol definition and a 4 Gigabit, 2 Gigabit, 1 Gigabit Fibre Channel protocol definition.

16. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said transforming means includes a deserializer, a decoder, and an aggregator capable of implementing at least two interconnect protocol definitions.

17. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said converting means includes a data presenter, an encoder, and a serializer capable of implementing at least two interconnect protocol definitions.

18. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein said at least two interconnect protocol definitions further includes a multiple-thread, multiple-speed protocol method.

19-20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The apparatus as claimed in claim 13, wherein said at least two interconnect protocol definitions further includes a multiple-thread, multiple-speed protocol method.